

**In The Claims:**

Please amend claims 14 and 17 as follows:

14. (Amended) A laminated composite wood product made by a method comprising the steps of:

- (a) forming a layered structure comprising a rigid substrate layer having two substantially flat sides, a resin-saturated sheet layer disposed on each of said sides, and a veneer layer disposed on [at least] only one of said sheet layers; and,
- (b) subjecting said structure to elevated temperature and pressure in a pressing apparatus for a time sufficient to cure said resin at said temperature and pressure.

17. (Amended) A laminated composite wood product comprising a rigid substrate layer having two substantially flat sides, a resin-saturated sheet layer on each of said substantially flat sides, and a veneer layer on [at least] only one of said sheet layers.

In claim 25, line 2, please delete "wood-like" and substitute --wood-- therefor.

Please add the following new claims 26-54:

--26. The laminated composite wood product of claim 14, wherein said pressing apparatus comprises a first platen and a second platen, said first platen having a temperature of about 350°F to about 405°F, and said second platen having a temperature of about 320°F to about 350°F.

27. The laminated composite wood product of claim 14, wherein said pressing apparatus subjects the structure of step (a) to a pressure of about 325 psi to about 425 psi.

28. The laminated composite wood product of claim 14, wherein said time is about one minute or less.

29. The laminated composite wood product of claim 14, wherein said time is about 30 seconds to about 40 seconds.

30. The laminated composite wood product of claim 14, wherein said resin of said resin-saturated sheet is a material comprising melamine.

31. The laminated composite wood product of claim 30, wherein said resin of said resin-saturated sheet is a material comprising about 98 wt.% melamine.

32. The laminated composite wood product of claim 30, wherein said resin of said resin-saturated sheet is a material comprising a melamine/urea blend.

33. The laminated composite wood product of claim 32, wherein said resin of said resin-saturated sheet is a material comprising about 60 wt.% of melamine and about 40 wt.% of urea.

34. The laminated composite wood product of claim 30, wherein said resin comprises about 45 wt.% to about 65 wt.% of the resin-saturated sheet.

35. The laminated composite wood product of claim 14, wherein said sheet of said resin-saturated sheet is an alpha cellulose sheet having a basis weight of about 40 pounds per ream to about 100 pounds per ream.

36. The laminated composite wood product of claim 14, wherein said rigid substrate layer is a material selected from the group consisting of particleboard, low-density fiberboard, medium-density fiberboard, and high-density fiberboard.

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37. A laminated composite wood product made by a method comprising the steps of:

(a) forming a layered structure comprising a rigid substrate layer having two substantially flat sides, a resin-saturated sheet layer disposed on each of said sides, and a veneer layer disposed on at least one of said sheet layers; and,

(b) subjecting said structure to elevated temperature and pressure in a pressing apparatus for a time sufficient to cure said resin at said temperature and pressure, said pressing apparatus comprising a first platen and a second platen, said first platen operating at a temperature different from an operating temperature of said second platen.

38. The laminated composite wood product of claim 37, wherein said operating temperature of said first platen is in a range of about 350°F to about 405°F, and said operating temperature of said second platen is in a range of about 320°F to about 350°F.

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39. The laminated composite wood product of claim 37, wherein said pressing apparatus subjects the structure of step (a) to a pressure of about 325 psi to about 425 psi.

40. The laminated composite wood product of claim 37, wherein said time is about one minute or less.

41. The laminated composite wood product of claim 37, wherein said time is about 30 seconds to about 40 seconds.

42. The laminated composite wood product of claim 37, wherein said resin of said resin-saturated sheet is a material comprising melamine.

43. The laminated composite wood product of claim 42, wherein said resin of said resin-saturated sheet is a material comprising about 98 wt.% melamine.

44. The laminated composite wood product of claim 42, wherein said resin of said resin-saturated sheet is a material comprising a melamine/urea blend.

45. The laminated composite wood product of claim 44, wherein said resin of said resin-saturated sheet is a material comprising about 60 wt.% of melamine and about 40 wt.% of urea.

46. The laminated composite wood product of claim 42, wherein said resin comprises about 45 wt.% to about 65 wt.% of the resin-saturated sheet.

47. The laminated composite wood product of claim 37, wherein said sheet of said resin-saturated sheet is an alpha cellulose sheet having a basis weight of about 40 pounds per ream to about 100 pounds per ream.

48. The laminated composite wood product of claim 37, wherein said rigid substrate layer is a material selected from the group consisting of particleboard, low-density fiberboard, medium-density fiberboard, and high-density fiberboard.

49. The laminated composite wood product of claim 37, wherein said veneer layer comprises a wood material having a moisture content of about 7 wt.% to about 10 wt.% based on the weight of the veneer.

~~50. The laminated composite wood product of claim 37, wherein said veneer layer is disposed on only one of said sheet layers.~~

51. A laminated composite wood product made by a method comprising the steps of:

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- (a) providing a rigid substrate layer having two substantially flat sides;
  - (b) providing, on each of said sides of the substrate layer, a sheet layer that is substantially saturated with a thermosetting resin;
  - (c) providing, on only one of said sheet layers, a veneer layer to form a layered structure consisting essentially of said substrate layer, said sheet layers and said veneer layer;
  - (d) providing the layered structure of step (c) in a pressing apparatus; and
  - (e) subjecting the layered structure of step (d) to elevated temperature and pressure in said pressing apparatus for a period sufficient to cure said resin at said temperature and pressure.
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52. The laminated composite wood product of claim 51, wherein:  
the layered structure of step (c) is provided in a pressing apparatus including a first platen and a second platen; and,

in step (e) said first platen has an elevated temperature in the range of about 350°F to about 405°F, and said second platen has an elevated temperature in the range of about 320°F to about 350°F.